

“Would The Real Church Please Stand Up”

2 Thessalonians
August 25, 2013

III We must pay much closer attention to living with self discipline under God’s word, (2 Ths. 1: 1-3: 18)

A. The wrath of God is a very present reality for those who do not believe the gospel, (vs. 1: 1 – 12)

1. The Gospel Produces The Real Fruit Of Faith & Love In The Life Of The Believer, (vs. 3)

Message Emphasis: Many do not understand what it means to be at peace by grace. We must see that the Spirit of Christ is made evident in the life of every believer by their growing in faith and love.

1 – 2.1) Would The Real Bride Of Christ Please Stand Up

“The Church By Grace & In Peace” – *“I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, 1) because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. 2) And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. 3) It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, 4) both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel.” (Philip. 1:3-7)*

1. Marked by thankfulness in permanent partnership
2. Marked by thankfulness in growing maturity
3. Marked by thankfulness in fellow partakers of grace
4. Marked by thankfulness in tested confirmation of a gospel commitment

For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take the harvest home; from the field shall in that day all offenses purge away, giving angels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast; but the fruitful ears to store in the garner evermore.

3.2) Are You Willing To Still Thank God Even If You Get Nothing?

“Ought (Pres.Act.Ind – owe) Always To Give Thanks (Pres.Act.Inf) To God” – 1) “... ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. 2) But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ 3) And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. 4) It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’ ” (Luke 15:29-32, ESV)

1. Faithfulness is a fruit not an entitlement
2. Grace is a gift not a compensation
3. Mercy is a bestowal not a birthright
4. Salvation is a miracle not a process

My heart is filled with thankfulness To him who reigns above, Whose wisdom is my perfect peace, Whose ev'ry thought is love. For ev'ry day I have on earth Is given by the King; So I will give my life, my all, To love and follow him.

3.3) Are You Willing To Be Pruned Even If You Go Unknown?

“Faith Growing Abundantly” – 1) “Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 2) Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. 3) As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.” (John 15:2-4, ESV)

1. Christ’s purpose is the bearing of abundant fruit
2. The gaining of salvation is already accomplished
3. Connection in Christ is mandatory

Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven; To His feet thy tribute bring. Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, Evermore His praises sing: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the everlasting King.

3.4) Are You Willing To Love Only Because Christ Loved You?

“Love Of Everyone For One Another Increasing” - 1) “knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot... 2) Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God;” (1 Peter 1:18-23)

1. In Christ we know how precious His love for us is
2. In Christ we know how we are to love as we have been loved

***** The Question Is Not What Must I Do? Rather, What Must I Do To Be Saved? *****

Message Directive: Look to Christ for the salvation of your soul; ONLY by His Spirit can you see the evidence of faith and love growing in your life.

“Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.” (Isaiah 45:22, ESV)

1) “For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (2 Peter 1:5-8, ESV)

2. The Gospel Produces The Real Fruit Of Steadfastness & Endurance In The Life Of The Believer, (vs. 4)
 3. The Gospel Produces The Real Evidence That The Believer Is Accepted Before God, (vs. 5)
 4. The Gospel Provides The Real Standard By Which God Will Repay Each Person, (vs. 6 – 7a)
 5. The Gospel Promises The Real Proof Of Christ's Sovereignty At His Appearing, (vs. 7b – 8)
 6. The Gospel Promises The Real Judgment Of Those Who Do Not Believe In Christ, (vs. 9)
 7. The Gospel Promises The Real Glorification Of Christ When He Confirms The Testimony, (vs. 10)
 8. The Gospel Prepares The Real Faith Within The Life Of Every Believer, (vs. 11)
 9. The Gospel Prepares The Real Grace Within The Life Of Every Believer, (vs. 12)
- B. The wrath of God is a very present reality governed by the ordained decrees of God, (vs. 2: 1 – 17)
- C. The wrath of God is a very present reality that must be avoided even in its temporal aspects, (vs. 3: 1 – 18)